



CONNECTICUT AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Lori Pelletier

Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 15, 2011

Senator Prague and Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, I am Lori Pelletier and I serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO, and I'm here to testify on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 220,000 working women and men from every city and town in our great state.

S.B. No. 359 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING EMPLOYER NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES REGARDING MANDATORY OVERTIME. We support this legislation. Workers have families too. The idea that an employer can force by making it a condition of employment mandatory overtime is a problem that the state needs to address. From healthcare workers to food service employees there needs to be a balance.

S.B. No. 361 (COMM) AN ACT PREVENTING THE USE OF CREDIT SCORES BY CERTAIN EMPLOYERS IN HIRING DECISIONS. We support this legislation. When first proposed two years ago this concept was new to many in the legislature, and the notion of an employer using credit history in the hiring process seemed unusual. Many residents have lost their jobs or homes and are barely making ends meet. This can have a serious impact on their credit score. If employers are allowed to continue using credit scores in hiring decisions, many hard-working people will be unfairly penalized. With unemployment in the State at or around 9% and many of those unemployed having been so for more than six months odds are their credit history has taken a beating. This is good policy and we are appreciative of the committee's attention to this matter.

We appreciate the Committee holding this public hearing and we look forward to working with the General Assembly to pass these important pieces of legislation.

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